

# The Paraphrase of de. Erasmus of Rotterdam upon the third Epistle of John.

The elder vnto the beloued Gaius, whom I loue in the truth. Beloued I wishe in all things, that thou prosperedst, and faredest well, euen as thy soule prospereth. For I reioysed greatly, when the brethren came, and testified of the truth that is in the, how thou walkest in the truth: I haue no greater ioye, then for to heare howe that my sonnes walke in veritie. Beloued, thou doest faithfully, whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers, which beare witness of thy loue before the congregation. Whiche brethren if thou bringe forwarde of theyr iourney (after a godly sorte) thou shalt do well, because that for bys names sake they were forch: and toke northinge of the Scrips. We therfore ought to receaue such, that we myght be helpers to the truth. I wrote vnto the congregatyon: but Diotrephes, whiche loueth to haue the preeminence among them, receyuet vs not. Wherefore if I come, I will declare bys dedes whiche he doeth, testyfyng on vs with malycious wordes, nether is therewith content. For onely he himselfe receyuet not the brethren, but also he forbiddeth them that woulde, and thrusteth them oute of the congregacion. Beloued, folowe not that whiche is euill, but that whiche is good. He that doeth well, is of god: but he that doth euill, seeth not god. Demetrius hath good reporte of all men, and of the truth his selfe, yea, and we oure selues also beare recorde, and ye knowe, that our recorde is true. I had many thynges to wyte: but I will not with penne and penne wyte vnto the. I trust I shall shortly se the, and we shall speake mouth to mouth. Peace be vnto the. The louers salute the. Here the louers by name.



The elder vnto the very louynge manne Gaius, whome I loue sincerely. Dearly beloued, this doo I wishe for in my prayers of Iesu Christ, that like as thy soule doeth prosperously well in continuynge stedfastly in the Gospelles doctrine, euen so it may also doe prosperously in al other matters, Christ being thy good speede. For I haue conceaued no small pleasure of the saying of the brethren, whiche are come vnto vs, and haue made reporte of thy sinceritie, they beinge as true witness bearours, as thou truly folowest the truth of the Gospel, not onely in profession, but also in thy studies, & in all thy whole life. For there is no matter that maketh my harte more glad, than if I chaunce to heare, that my childre, which I begat by the Gospel vnto Christ, doe folow the truth that we deliuered them. Dearly beloued, in that thou art diligently good vnto the Christians, whiche are there, and come thider as strangers, thou doest a dede worthy hym that truly putteth his trust in the Gospel, and loueth Christ. For they haue made reporte of thy sinceritie before all the whole companie of the Christians. And thou shouldest doe well to, if thou wouldest bring those, whoms thou receyuedest gently at their coming, forth with like gentleness, thither as they would goe: like as they, which goe about Gods busines & not theyr owne, deserue to be entreated of the that loue God hartly. For they went not forth to a market to encrease theyr owne household pelfe, but to preach the name of the lord Iesu Christ, whose doctrine they distribute so vnto the heathens, that they take nothinge of them for all that: to thintente they maye bringe the more frute vnto Christe, for whome they labour: and if they so doe, god defende them from all suspicion of hastynge hande making. In dede it is very seynge for vs to receyue suche in to oure house, and to prouyde, that they wante

## The paraphrase of Erasmus vpon the.iii. epistle

want nothinge to the necessitie of theyr lyfe, that we may on some behalfe be partakers of those thinges, which are done by them vnto the glozve of God. for so Christ hath promised, that he which receiveth a prophete as a prophete, shoulde haue the rewarde of a prophete. I haue written hertofore already vnto the congregacion, that is there, to doe the same, that I warne the of: howbeit Diotrefes withstandeth and doeth not receyue our monitions, hauing rather to be a ring leader among his own, than of low degree, and a pure disciple of Christ: and hauing rather to be autour of a new heresy, than to be a true folower of the olde euangelicall doctrine. Wherefore if I come vnto you, I will warne hym of hys doinges, wherof he thinketh peraduenture that I am not ware, while he being a naughty manne chatreth with malicious wordes againste vs, to thintent he myght take away our credence and autoritie from vs among you, whiche do exhorte you to continue still in the doctrine of the Gospell. Neither beinge herewith contente, he doeth not onely not receyue the brethren, but also forbiddeth them that woulde receyue them, and disturbeth them in the congregacion. The mans forwardnes is suche. My good louinge brother, folowe not that whiche is euill, but that which is good. It is our partie to suffre them that naughty are, but not to folow theyr example. All are not the children of god, which haue receyued baptisme. He that declareth his faith by godlye dedes, is borne of God, for he resembleth the disposition and doctrine of hys father. He that doeth wickedlye, although he professe God in his wordes, yet he doeth not (for all that) see god truly: for he is sene with moste purely scowred eyes of faith, which are blurred with the darkenes of vices. Therefore auoyde the example of Diotrefes, a set Demetrius before thy eyes to do after. for his godlynes is reported of all men, whiche although they would saye nothing, yet the thinge it selfe maketh repozte of the mannes vertue. Yea and we our selues hauinge experient of hys sinceritie, beare witnessse of hym. And you know, that we beare true witnessse of hym. I had also very many other thinges, whiche I was desyrous that thou shouldest knowe, but I thought it not expedient, to put them in wytyng. I trust I shall come vnto the shortly: than we shall presently continue of all thinges more surely and more fully. Peace be vnto the. Thy frendes that are here commende them vnto the. And salute thou those frendes agayne, that are there, in theyr behalfe diligently, and by name.

Thus endeth the third epistle of  
John.